

*An inaugural essay*

*on Gastritis,*

*or*

*Inflammation*

*of*

*the Stomach.*

*A. L. Davis*

*admitted March 16. 1819*

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distinction

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A. L. Davis

about 1810

## Preface

In vain would the student of medicine, whose time and opportunity are necessarily very limited, search in quest of new and original matters, to compose a thesis; not only would it be an useless consumption of time, but a failure in the attempt. It is his province to learn and adopt those precepts, so far as it comports with his own judgment, supported by correct reasoning and undeniable facts, which have been the labour of centuries and the fruits of genius and of talents.

For an inaugural Essay, I have selected the subject of Scabulis.

# Introduction

The purpose of this book is to provide a comprehensive overview of the various aspects of the human mind and its functions. It is intended for students of psychology and those who are interested in understanding the complexities of human behavior. The book is divided into several sections, each dealing with a different aspect of the mind. The first section deals with the basic principles of psychology, while the second section deals with the development of the mind. The third section deals with the various functions of the mind, and the fourth section deals with the application of psychology to everyday life. The book is written in a clear and concise manner, and it is hoped that it will be of great value to all who read it.



of Gastritis,

or

Inflammation of the Stomach.

Agreeable to nosologists, there are two species of this disease, the phlegmonous and erythematous; the first is seated in the mucous or peritoneal coat, and the latter in the villous and adjacent cellular texture.

The erythematous is distinguishable from the phlegmonous, by the less violent degree of pyrexia, pain, tension, burning heat in the epigastric region, and sometimes by its extending  
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The first of the month, the following  
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to the bronchia, fauces and occasionally  
to the whole internal surface of the  
mouth.

I shall first speak of phlegmon-  
ous Gastritis. =====

### Of the symptoms.

The first symptoms of this disease,  
are violent burning pain in the stom-  
ach and about the praecordia, great  
soreness, irritability and frequent vom-  
iting, great restlessness and thirst.

In the more advanced stage of the  
disease, the symptoms are augmented  
in violence, attended with very great  
tension of the epigastric and umbilic-  
al regions, great prostration of strength  
the

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the pulse is frequent, small, hard, corded and quick; and without the disease be arrested, or mitigated in its violence, the symptoms become still more aggravated and alarming, portending an immediate dissolution; as extreme exhaustion of strength, so much so, that the patient can not be raised in bed without fainting, the extremities and surface become cold, the eyes wild, countenance sunk and pulse feeble, hicough occurs and evolutions of black matter takes place, similar to the black vomit.

Besides these regular symptoms, this disease is sometimes attended with anomalies, arising from what are termed delusory sympathies; thus cases are related by the Professor of Phy-



Physick in this School, of severe pain in the toe, resembling that of podagra; an inflammation in the groin, spasmodic contractions of the muscles of the arms, and aversion to water and horror to light, which two last anomalies, are always attendant symptomatic on canine madness, and spontaneous by dysphobia; the latter of which is always attended with a high degree of inflammation of the stomach. Also cases are related by P. Physick, of pain in the pudenda of women, accompanying inflammation of that organ, in the gleet form; and that the highest degree of pain, always denoted a fatal termination of the case.

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Of





## Of the Causes.

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The causes are cold water drunk in large quantities, when the system is at a high temperature, overdistention of the stomach, from too large a quantity of indigestible food, too free an indulgence of spirituous liquors, acids of various kinds, as arsenic, oxymuriatic of mercury, or corrosive sublimate, the alkalis, mineral acids &c. &c., violent emetics, contusion or mechanical or chemical injuries of any kind, in short, it is subject to all the causes of inflammation, repelled exanthemata and gout.

Besides, arising from these causes, it is sometimes a symptomatic disease arising

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arising from inflammation of some of  
its adjacent parts, as the liver, spleen,  
intestines &c.

### Treatment.

The indication of cure, is to subdue  
the inflammatory action existing in the  
stomach, and in order to do this, the  
most powerful and directly depleting  
means are called into requisition, such  
as Venesection, cupping and leeching.

The disease being seated in a  
delicate organ, the exercise of whose func-  
tions, is essential and indispensable to  
the sustenance of life; and consider-  
ing the quick career of the disease, the  
rem-

Remains

remedies should be prompt and appropriate.

In the commencement of the disease, regardless of the pulse, fever and prostration of strength, which invariably attend this disease, as well as other kindred diseases of the whole alimentary canal, more or less, in the words of our worthy Professor of the Practice of Physick, "we must boldly apply the lancet and deplete copiously and freely, or all is lost".

In the very onset of the disease, in an adult of tolerably athletic constitution, it will be necessary to detract twenty or thirty ounces of blood, more or less according to circumstances, repeated as often as may be found necessary. In thus commencing and prosecuting the treatment, the inflammation



mating nature of the disease, will more  
evidently develop itself, and the in-  
dication will be more distinctly mark-  
ed. Might it not be laid down as  
a rule in the treatment of this disease,  
~~respecting~~ <sup>the</sup> use of the lancet, that,  
as often as there is an evident reac-  
tion, after its use, followed by a return  
to or near its former feebleness, or de-  
pressed condition, indicated by a fre-  
quent, hard and small pulse, so often  
to resume its use, until ultimately  
the pulse is restored to, or near its na-  
tural state as possible, keeping steadily  
in view the constitution of the patient,  
and other circumstances, which regu-  
late the use of this remedy?

After using the <sup>lancet</sup> to a very great ex-  
tent, when all the advantages, which could  
possibly





probably have accrued from this general mode  
of depletion, was obtained, and when it was  
uncertain as to the safety of its farther pro-  
secution, and the disease still insubdued,  
advantage may be derived from topi-  
cal depletion, by cups and leeches, ap-  
plied immediately over the region of  
the stomach, with to as great an extent  
as practicable. But probably this would  
be too lenient and tardy a mode of pro-  
ceeding for the urgency of the case; third  
blister should be resorted to; and consi-  
dering the great urgency of the case,  
they should be large enough to extend o-  
ver the whole region of the stomach.  
They as well allay the irritation of that  
organ, as divert the action or excitement  
from it. At the same time, much re-  
lief may be obtained by the coöperation  
of fomentations, applied to the abdomen,  
of



of hot water in bladders, or any other mode of fomentation, that may be most convenient.

During this time, the bowels should be kept in a soluble condition, and owing to the irritable condition of the stomach, no medicine to effect this purpose, can be retained. Clysters under such circumstances are to be resorted to, and they to be of the mildest kind, as oil and molasses with warm water, and as they would be beneficial, both as a fomentation and aperient, they should be copious and frequently administered. By keeping up, or increasing the peristaltic motion of the intestines, the contents of the stomach are invited downwards, and it relieved of the irritation occasioned by their presence.

As soon as the stomach becomes  
easier



sufficiently calmed, or the irritation allayed, some mild purgative, or laxative, should be given. For this purpose, Calomel, castor oil, & the sulphate of magnesia or epsom salts, have been employed; but calomel has been found, from its peculiar operation, in inflamed intestines and stomach, to be less irritant and superior to all others.

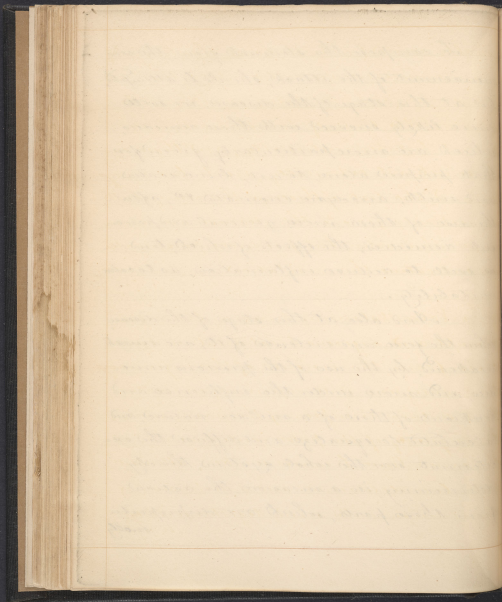
The sulphate of magnesia or epsom salts, is also very highly recommended in such cases; together with its laxative effect, it has that of allaying gastric distension, from the authority of Dr. Chapman, in his invaluable work on Therapeutics and Materia Medica, and which, I have had an opportunity of seeing verified to my entire satisfaction.



To compose the stomach from the commencing of the attack, should be attempted, but at this stage of the disease, we will more likely succeed with those remedies, which are more particularly given for that purpose alone, to wit, lime water and milk, anodyne enemata &c, after the use of those more general and powerful remedies, the effects of which, tend as well to reduce inflammation, as to calm irritability.

And also at this stage of the disease, when the force and violence of it, are much weakened, by the use of the previous remedies, and more under the influence and control of those of a milder nature, and calculated to equalize and diffuse the excitement over the whole system, thereby determining in a measure, the action from those parts, which are disproportionately

exactly





onably excited (as in this case, the stomach, the diaphoretics are called into requisition; but owing, (as I have before mentioned), to the irritable state of the stomach, they cannot be taken internally; and those only which act externally, are to be employed; and the best of these is the warm bath, it not only gives to the disease a centrifugal character, but produces perspiration and calms the irritation.

Notwithstanding however, the most prompt and vigorous treatment in some cases, from the violence of the inflammation, gangrene will supervene, indicated by a sudden remission of the pain, while the frequency of the pulse continues, and at the same time becomes weaker, attended with low delirium, and a distension of the abdomen with wind, together with every  
sympt.

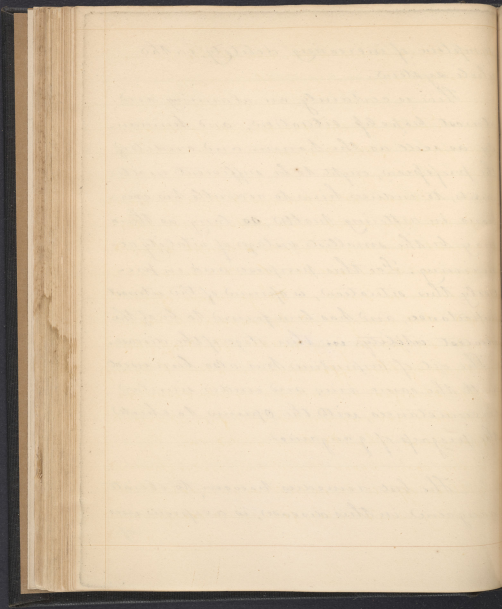


symptom of increasing debility, in the whole system.

This is certainly an alarming and almost hopeless situation; and humanity as well as the honour and credit of the profession, ought to be sufficient incentives, to induce him to redouble his exertions in restoring health, so long as there may be the smallest vestige of vitality remaining. For this purpose and in precisely this situation, is opium of the utmost importance, and has been found to be of the greatest utility in this stage of the disease.

The oil of turpentine has also been used with the same view and under similar circumstances, with the Opium, to check the progress of gangrene.

The best remedies however, to obviate gangrene in this disease, is a copious use of  
of



of the lancet, and a free use of blisters in  
the commencement of the attack.

Such is the treatment of the com-  
mon forms of this disease.

When it is produced by any acid  
or poisonous substance taken into the  
stomach, an immediate attempt should  
be made to reject it, by the most ac-  
tive means, such as large doses of Tar-  
trized Antimony and Spicaeantha com-  
bined, sulphate of zinc &c. And if the  
nature of the offending matter be known,  
such specific evacuates or antidotes, as  
have been recommended and found most  
efficacious should be resorted to.

In some cases however, notwithstand-  
ing these efforts to expell or correct the  
offending substance, fever and delirium  
arise

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ation to the head will occur with difficult respiration.

The treatment in such cases, is similar, to the treatment of those, produced from other causes, with this exception however, that, when these effects are produced from any of the narcotic poisons, they will not bear restriction to any great extent, and require cordial remedies after its use.

There is also another exception to the general treatment of affections arising from all acrids or poisons, that, when they arise from digitalis and its kindred articles, they require the most diffusible stimulants, such as the spirituous liquors, Volatile Alkali &c., and even opium itself has been found very serviceable.

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Having spoken of the first species of Gastritis, or phlegmonous gastritis, I shall now speak of the second species or erythematous gastritis.

## Of Erythematic Gastritis.

### The Symptoms.

These are not generally well defined, hence it is said to exist frequently without detection, as from dissections, the stomach has been found to have the appearance of previous inflammation, unaccompanied with any marked symptoms of the phlegmonous or erythematic kind. But however there are some cases that may be detected, by the inflammation extending to the Oesophagus, Pharynx and sometimes to the



the whole internal surface of the stomach, together with at the same time an unusual degree of sensibility in the stomach, to any acrid substance taken into it, want of appetite, anxiety, sometimes occasional vomiting, constant thirst and frequency of pulse.

It seems to be the nature of this kind of inflammation to spread, from one part to another of the same surface, leaving the part in which it was first seated and attacking another, thus extending along the whole course of the alimentary canal, successively, occasioning alternations of diarrhoea and vomiting.

### of the causes.

Many of the causes which produce the phlegmous gastritis, also produce this; such as acrid or poisonous substances taken into the



the stomach; some of the causes which produce erythema of the skin, such as luxuriant living and an abuse of fermented liquors, also malignant fevers produce it.

### Treatment.

The treatment is varied according to the causes and symptoms.

If occasioned by acrid or poisonous substances taken into the stomach, which sometimes occasion the phlogagenous kind, the same means are requisite for this disposition, that were recommended, when speaking of the treatment of that particular kind; and if attended with a sense of heat, pain and pyrexia, in proportion to the violence of these symptoms, are those remedies to be employed, that are used for  
the

It is a common error to suppose that the  
only way of curing the disease is by  
the use of the knife and the lancet.  
But the most successful treatment is by  
the use of the quinine.

## Treatment.

The treatment is a very simple one.  
The patient is to be kept in bed.  
The diet should be light and nourishing.  
The patient should be kept cool.  
The patient should be kept quiet.  
The patient should be kept comfortable.  
The patient should be kept healthy.  
The patient should be kept happy.  
The patient should be kept well.

the cure of the first species of this disease.

When this disease arises from any malignant fern, if pain and pyrexia accompany it, bleeding will be found necessary, and these means recommended in the first species, when not too much debilitated from other causes; but as this disease more commonly occurs in convalescents from fern, bleeding will be found inadvisable, and all that can be done, is to avoid irritation as much as possible. —

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